



Information Bulletin

Governor's Office of Emergency Services Law Enforcement Branch

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Citizen Corps/CERT Grants

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Recently, the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) announced the availability of a \$1.6 million grant to California for Citizen Corps Programs. The grant is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) terrorism funding from the Federal Fiscal Year 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act. GO SERV has been designated to administer the grant. Since the public sector, Tribal Nations, disaster relief organizations and the emergency management, first responder, service and volunteer communities are associated with the overall Citizen Corps program, it is important for you to become aware of the grant opportunity and its potential enhancement of volunteers in emergencies and homeland security efforts statewide. As a service to the Governor's GOSERV Program we are providing below their brief program overview.

Citizen Corps, a component of the USA Freedom Corps—a presidential initiative announced in the 2002 State of the Union address—was developed in response to the nation's post 9/11 trend of increased citizen involvement and to cultivate volunteer opportunities and training to support communities and family safety.

Building upon existing emergency management and preparedness programs, this money will complement the scope and capacity of California's emergency response systems in two ways—by establishing local Citizen Corps Councils and increasing the number of Californians trained through Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) will provide grants to Operational Areas at the County level and a representative of Tribal Nations to develop Citizen Corps Councils to engage people in their communities to develop community action plans, supplement neighborhood coordination, promote planning, preparedness and overall awareness and risk reduction. The local councils will also support first responders and emphasize SEMS coordination.

CERT, a program that originated in California and was adopted as a national training model, helps community members prepare for and respond to disasters and other emergencies in their local areas. Across the country, CERT-trained volunteers also assist law enforcement and fire fighters, aid in lost or kidnapped children searches, assist Red Cross and other relief organizations in mass care, damage assessment and family services during an emergency. There are more than 55 CERT-type training programs operating in the state.

The grant program is centered around stakeholder involvement at the Operational Area level to decide the best methods to allocate CERT training funds at the local level and the best method to coordinate and support local Council development. Interested parties should contact their Operational Area emergency management staffs.

For additional information, access GO SERV's website on California's Citizen Corps program at www.goserv.ca.gov or contact GO SERV directly at 916/323-7646.